REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Without acceding to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claims 1, 6, and 14 have been cancelled for presentation in a divisional application.

Claim 15, which was merely objected to has been rewritten in independent form as Claim 29. Claim 16, which was merely objected to, and which was dependent upon Claim 15, is now presented as Claim 30 dependent on Claim 29. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-13, and 17-28 have been allowed.

Accordingly, this application is now in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Reg. No. 17,095

NHS: 1mb

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October 18, 2004

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